Chalakudi river, which is intended to irrigate about 2,000 acres of land in Travancore and which has to be carried out with the concurrence of and in conjunction with the Cochin Government. It may interest you to learn that both the Governments are now engaged in examining this project. Nor have the Government forgotten the minor irrigation tanks which form a special feature of the taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara. I recently inspected some of those tanks and I have proposed a scheme for their restoration at the joint cost of the Government and the ryot. Briefly put, the scheme is that Government should restore the tanks solely at their cost in the first instance and recover three-fourths of such cost from the ryots interested in easy instalments and that all this should be done in the course of half a dozen years, by ear-marking a definite sum yearly for the purpose. The further progress of the scheme will depend upon the response the ryots make to this proposal.

9. Development Departments.—Agriculture.—We now come to a consideration of the Development Departments, under which head we may suitably bring Co-operation, Agriculture with Fisheries, and Industries with Technical and Commercial Education. The Departments of Geology, Exise and Forests without whose help the development departments mentioned above cannot obtain much of the raw material required for their working, will also be simultaneously considered. The first thing that strikes one on an examination of the condition of these departments is the utter lack of co-ordination and correlation among them. Each of these departments has so far failed to make use of the help that can be rendered or the comparative experience that can be afforded by the others, and team work of the right sort, on which the cumulative success of these departments so largely depends, is conspicuous by its absence. Even the scientific equipment in men and material such as laboratories, staff of analysts, etc., are separate for each department, with the result that the equipment in every case is much below the mark while it could be brought up to the mark were it common to all the departments. The heads of these departments seldom meet and confer or consult. The only development department that has made some headway is that of Agriculture, and even here there is considerable room for improvement in the work of demonstration and propaganda as in scientific research. Only the fringe of many vital problems has been touched, and a good deal of spade work has still to be done before the foundations of the department can be said to be truly laid. No serious attempt has hitherto been made to tackle the problem of the industries subsidiary to agriculture and fisheries, and the want of capital and co-operative spirit which is so essential for the development of these industries, has not yet been remedied. I should not be taken as underestimating the results of the work the Agricultural Department has achieved so far. With the limited funds and staff placed at his disposal the Director has done a good deal, especially in the directions of popularising scientific manures, demonstrating on ryots' lands, combating pests, carrying on research and analysing soils. He is just now engaged in tackling the problems of punja cultivation with the help of the motor plough, of opening new demonstrational farms, of improving the local breeds of cattle by importing sires of better milking strains and greater capacity for work, and of popularising fish curing and fish oil industries. Finally, he has been endeavouring to popularise with a certain amount of success the cultivation of the mulberry and the rearing of the silkworm, and the Government have recently sanctioned his proposal to ear-mark some blocks of land in the Nedumangad taluk for assignment to silkworm rearers. When he secures the help of a properly qualified executive assistant whose appointment has been recently sanctioned, he will no doubt be able to add to the efficiency of his department. But the work that still remains to be done to bring the industry up to its level in advanced countries and make Travancore less dependent on imported food is far greater in magnitude than what has already been achieved. In this connection, I may state that the value of Government loans for agricultural improvements is little understood and that although a Regulation on the subject exists no rules have been framed to give practical effect to it. The necessary rules and table of equated repayments are under preparation.

10. Industries.—The Department of Industries is comparatively far younger, having been brought into existence only about a couple of years ago, and

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